



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Zoom meeting – **You must Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/98235746110>

You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

Minutes

In attendance: Keith Schnebly, Steve Moore, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Mara Vatz, Susan Stamps.

Visitors: Tim Lecuivre, Gary Goldsmith

1. *Approve May Meeting Minutes.* Some edits made - APPROVED
2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*
 - Tree hearing(s) - none
 - Tree Bylaw activity – 2 developer properties:
 - 3 Grandview Road (wooded lot, Tree Plan was submitted; will protect 3 trees)
 - 68 Hodge Road (2 Protected oak trees in Tree Plan will be protected, other trees are not within the setback; 1 oak tree is unhealthy and will be taken down);
 - Tree Watering. DPW employees are being offered overtime to water trees (for the 2 hours after work). Summer help (2 FT interns) will arrive on 6/12 to help tree watering. Tim designed watering map. New trees on Brattle Street, Broadway, Mass Ave and other 'heat island' regions of town will be a focus for summer help. Summer help will be removing trees that are dead and noting these locations in the queue so replacement trees can be planted.
 - Sycamore trees are slow to leaf out this year, they didn't like the spring wet weather (anthracnose).
 - Other:
 - i. Tree Bylaw conversation: before a builder gets a demo permit, you need to cap utilities. Tim believes that a Tree Plan should be submitted and approved (and tree protection put in place) **prior** to 'capping utilities' so trees are not damaged. Bylaw: "before commencement of work, the Tree Plan has to be approved". We need to make certain that if someone other than the builder is doing sitework related to the project that trees are protected ---
 - ii. Mike Ciampa is the new acting head of Inspectional Services – Tim will ask him to see how this process unravels with a project. Action: **Susan will research/follow up**
 - iii. Joan Roman is posting some notices about Tree Department's tree work during the pandemic
 - iv. Speak to Joan Roman about making sure construction guidelines are visible in mobile versions of the Town website.
 - v. Protecting street trees during sidewalk work is focused on not cutting the roots; currently, they don't do tree trunk protection. **Action: ATC needs to research other towns to learn what they are doing to protect street trees, then we should write/present to the town (Engineering and Mike Ciampa)**
 - vi. Town is updating their system so WebQ/A is integrated into People GIS.

3. *Community Tree Canopy Program – Spring 2021* (Keith/MEA). All 50 trees sold and paid for.
Action: MEA to submit checks and Keith/MEA will brainstorm on what went well and what we want to improve for next year
4. *Report from Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town* (**Subcommittee will plan another meeting – MEA to schedule it**)
 - Planting in Neighborhoods where trees have been lost
 - Arlington Housing Authority spring planting – 7 trees planted, watering by Keith/JoAnne
 - Menotomy Manor: has many older and some younger trees. There are some planting sites for new trees. **(Keith will look for spots to plant so we can possibly plant trees in the fall)**
 - Children's Room planting. Nothing this year since capital projects are being planned
 - Back-of-sidewalk. No discussion
 - Private way planting – **(Susan will reach out to Town Counsel)**
 - Streamlining process for planting projects. Criteria for planting trees **(MEA/Eliza will meet with Tim to discuss the criteria)**
 - Areas around Thompson where residents may want trees. Warren Street is a heat island. School property side of Lussiano Park is very hot/no shade. **(Mara will do some investigating and reach out in these neighborhoods)**
5. *Adopt-a-Tree Program (2021 program)* (MEA/Eliza/Steve)
 - 2021 Kick off June 2nd
 - i. Adam K added new trees to the Adopt-A-Tree map
 - ii. Develop additional material to reach wider audience. Share with Open Space, Schools, SAVE club at AHS, AC, etc
 - Target trees in heat islands where a lot of new trees planted in Spring 2021
 - Develop a note for adopters to put a yellow ribbon on the trees **(MEA to ask Adam K)**
 - Steve now handling technical issues with sign-up and adoption process
 - Eliza shared a flyer with Green Team coordinator of APS (Rachel Oliveri) to share with those groups
6. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
 - Website updating/editing
 - Outreach/liaisons to town orgs (ARB, ZBA, Park and Rec, Open Space, School Comm)
 - i. ZBA (Steve)
 1. Thorndike Place (40B) – process is almost finished; current plan is for a Senior Living development (no in-house assisted living services), with additional non-Senior duplexes; moving forward towards approval
 2. 1165R Mass Ave (40B) – process ongoing; residential units in both renovated and new buildings, in lieu of current parking lots
 - ii. Add Susan to ARB
 - iii. Open Space (new plan is coming out): **Keith is going to attend**
 - iv. Town meeting talked about public property The Public Land Management Plan – TM voted to fund 30k to a consultant to develop a mgmt plan for public (the Open Space/Rec plan does not many assets: all open space / other natural resource spaces with open land - parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, historic landscapes, cemeteries) assess these parcels for invasive species, etc.
 - Town Meeting handout (Susan presented the ATC annual report)
 - Broader inclusion/equity of ATC materials, programs, and members; translations
7. *New Business*
 - ATC plans to meet virtually in July, yet awaiting state guidelines due out on June 15 to determine if we are required to meet in person.

Next meeting: July 14, 2021.

Meeting adjourned 9:20pm